

Message Text

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ACTION PER-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 /014 W

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R 201045Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8723

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4733

BEIRUT FOR AMBASSADOR SEELYE AND RAY HUNT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, AFSP, CGEN

SUBJECT: REVISED STAFFING AT DAMASCUS

REF: (A) STATE 178221, (B) STATE 177857, (C) BEIRUT 6372,

(D) BEIRUT 6315

REALIGNED STAFFING IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTELS REPRESENTS
FROM DAMASCUS' POINT OF VIEW REALISTIC AND PRACTICAL
SOLUTION TO OUR MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS OVER NEXT FEW
MONTHS. OUR COMMENTS FOLLOW:

(A) WOULD WELCOME TDY POWELL THROUGH SEPT 20 DURING PERIOD
ROBERT HOME LEAVE AND AGREE HIS BEIRUT EXPERIENCE WOULD BE
EXTREMELY USEFUL TO US HERE. ROBERT PLANS TO STAY THROUGH
INSPECTION (JULY 27 - AUG 5) AND SPEND A FEW DAYS ON
ANNUAL LEAVE IN ROME PRIOR TO COMMENCING HL. POWELL COULD
STAY IN DAMASCUS OR TAKE FEW DAYS LEAVE IN ATHENS AND
RETURN.

(B) TDY SMITH THROUGH AUGUST 30 WILL HELP STEM
TIDE OF LEBANESE VISA APPLICANTS NOW MASSING IN
CONSULAR SECTION ON DAILY BASIS. WE FRANKLY BELIEVE
BEIRUT'S ASSUMPTION (REF D) THAT LEBANESE APPLICANTS
WILL FIND ATHENS MORE CONVENIENT THAN DAMASCUS IS
ERRONEOUS AND WILL DEEP DEPT INFORMED ON OUR WORKLOAD.
WE MAY HAVE TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL HELP.

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(C) TDY MRS. SHULTZ WILL BE MOST USEFUL. HER
DESK IS WAITING. HOPE SHE WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO
DAMASCUS TOWARD END FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST AFTER FEW DAYS
RESPITE IN ATHENS.

(D) TDY MRS. WATERMAN ALSO MAKES SENSE SO SHE
CAN MONITOR AND ASSIST WITH DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS
IN ANTICIPATION EARLY RETURN TO BEIRUT IN RELIEF
COORDINATING CAPACITY (REF C). TOM BALL HAS DONE EXTREMELY
COMPETENT JOB IN CORR DINATING RELIEF OPERATIONS WITH
SARG AND WE ENVISAGE HIM CONTINUING THIS ROLE. AS WORKLOAD
INCREASES, MRS. WATERMAN WILL ALSO BE USEFUL AND SHE MAY
BE ABLE TO ASSIST USAID AND EMBASSY IN OTHER MATTERS AS
WELL WHEN SHE RETURNS TO DAMASCUS FROM ATHENS.

(E) HALLMAN AND DAVIS TDY'S (PARA, REF B) WILL
FILL ANTICIPATED COMMUNICATOR REQUIREMENTS.
MURPHY

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